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ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF LODDON AND CLAVERING

For the Year 1925.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the year 1925.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the
Loddon and Clavering Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you my Report for 1925.

The estimated population of the District is 12,340, to an acreage of about 60,000, giving an average of ·21 per acre.

The Rateable Value of Land and Buildings is £83,894; the Assessable Value is £47,658, a 1d. Rate producing £200.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births: (Legitimate) Male 106; Female 90 } Total 210.
(Illegitimate) ,, 7; ,, 7 }

Equivalent to a birth-rate of 17·02 per 1000.

Birth-rate for whole of England and Wales, 18·3 per 1000.

Deaths: Male 71; Female 78. Total 149, giving a death-rate of 12.07 per 1000.

Death-rate for England and Wales, 12·2 per 1000.

Deaths from Cancer and other forms of malignant disease amount to 26, or 17·41 per cent. of total deaths.

Deaths from Tuberculosis, 6, all from Tuberculosis of respiratory tract, being 4·03 per cent.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, Nil.

Deaths under 1 year, Male 7; Female 5, total 12, being 9·72 per 1000 of population, and 8·01 per cent. of total deaths.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases: There was one death from Diphtheria.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

			Cases.	*Deaths.*
Small Pox	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	13	0
Diphtheria	...	...	3	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	0
Erysipelas	...	...	2	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	0

Age incidena.	*CASES.* Respiratory.		*CASES.* Non-respiratory.		*DEATHS.* Respiratory.		*DEATHS.* Non-respiratory.	
	Male.	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...
10	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	...
25	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
55	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	2	3	4	3	2	1	0

Total cases, 15. Total deaths, 6.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum: No cases.

The amount of infections disease is again pleasantly low. In all probability there is nowadays more scarlet fever than can be notified. The tendency shown in the past decade for the infectious diseases to become milder in type is especially marked in the case of this disease, and I have no doubt that there are many cases of scarlet fever which are never seen by a doctor, the child being only slightly ill for a day or two without any marked sore throat and showing either no rash at all, or one of such transient nature as to pass unnoticed by the parents. This will account for the first appearance of the disease, being the infection of two or three children in different houses at the same time as happened at Aldeby at the end of the year. The infectivity of the disease also appears to be diminishing as it seems unusual to see large epidemics even where it is certain that these have been earlier unrecognised cases attending school.

NURSING AND HOSPITALS.

NURSING.—The District Nursing system by local Committees managing their nurse continues to work with success. All nurses are under the Norfolk Nursing Federation. During the year a District Nurse has been started in the Brooke—Mundham area where one was badly needed.

MIDWIFERY is carried out by the District Nurses with or without medical aid.

HOSPITALS. (*a*) *General.*—The Ditchingham Cottage Hospital is the only one in the District. Apart from this a few cases are sent to Beccles, but the majority go to Norwich. Under new arrangements by the British Red Cross Society it is easier to arrange for ambulance transport of cases than in prèvious years. This is a matter of considerable benefit. The provision of a midwifery department at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital is an addition to the available hospital accommodation, and is of great value to the District.

(*b*) *Isolation Hospitals.*—The Council continues its arrangement with the Oulton Broad Hospital of the Mutford and Lothingland Council. This scheme continues to work well. Eight cases from the Rural District were admitted during the year.

SMALLPOX HOSPITALS.—There are no such in the County of Norfolk.

SANATORIA.—Sanatorium arrangements continue to be made by the County Tuberculosis Department.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BAKEHOUSES.—These are six in number, all well looked after.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—Under the new regulations all places where slaughtering is carried out must be registered, in the cases of places existing at the time of commencement of the provisions of the new Order, or licensed in the cases of new slaughter-houses. An individual inspection was carried out of all registered houses with the aid of the Sanitary Inspector, and necessary alterations and improvements pointed out. These were carried out by the occupiers with little or no opposition. The number of registered slaughter-houses is 15, licensed slaughter-houses 2.

Disinfection.—Fumigation was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector in 15 instances.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 93 registered cowkeepers in the District. Inspections have been regularly carried out as follows: Cowsheds 227, Milkshops 2, Dairies 91.

Water Supply is by wells all though the District. The supply appears to be adequate. One new well has been sunk during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage remain as in the past. The methods in use seem generally satisfactory.

Scavenging is carried out in Loddon only, by contract. The work has been done well on the whole.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Beet Sugar Factory at Cantley saves us from much unemployment that would otherwise occur during the winter when the demand for unskilled agricultural labour is at its lowest. At the same time I feel that, in fortunately rare instances, the good money earned there allows men to draw unemployment benefit without feeling the necessity of work for an undesirably long period after the close of the factory at the finish of the winter work.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1925:

A.—Total (including No. given under (*b*)) 8

B.—With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(*a*) by Local Authority 0

(*b*) by other Bodies or persons 8

Inspections.

1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .. 395

(2) Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 369

(3) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation .. 3

(4) Number (exclusive of those under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 119

2. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.*

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers 123

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. Proceedings under sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice 0

(*a*) by Owners 0

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owners .. 0

(3) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intent to close 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 119

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:

(*a*) by Owners 123

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owner . 0

C. Proceedings under secs. 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Representations with a view to closing order ..	1
(2) Closing order made	1
(3) Number of houses made fit and closing order determined	0
(4) Number in which demolition orders were made ..	0
(5) Number demolished in pursuance of demolition order	0

4. *Sanitary Staff.*

There is one Sanitary Inspector (part-time). He is engaged on house-to-house inspection for the discovery and abatement of nuisances, inquiry into infectious disease and disinfection, and is also Inspector of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter-houses, and Cleansing Superintendent for Loddon.

I should be glad to record here my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his cooperation during the year, and for the able and systematic manner in which his side of the Public Health work of the District has been carried out.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. DOBREE WOODROFFE, M.D.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the year 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Loddon and Clavering Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1925, being my 27th Annual Report of the work carried out by me as your Sanitary Inspector.

The Report shows the actual inspections, notices and work of repair carried out in consequence of such notices, but is hardly representative of the amount of work necessary in getting the work executed. An addition to the work is the new Order for the Registration, Licencing and Inspection of all Slaughter-houses. These have periodically and from time to time been inspected and where alteration was necessary have been brought up-to-date. There is also a separate report to the County Medical Officer of Health as required by the Housing Acts.

The work in each department seems to grow each year, as witness to the number of Cowkeepers now registered, 93 against 26 of a few years ago, also the compulsory registration and subsequent inspections of all slaughter-houses, the number at present being 17.

The work necessary to comply with some outstanding notices is well in hand and I hope same will be completed without the necessity of summons before the Magistrates.

The Number of notices served during the year is :—

Public Health Acts (Preliminary) - -	131
,, ,, ,, (Statutory) - -	20
Dairies and Cowsheds (Preliminary) -	36

Apart from the service of these notices many letters have been written and personal visits and appointments made.

The number of complaints made is six being about one for every seventh Parish in the Rural District.

The following summary shows the amount of work done:—

Visits and inspections	699
Cowshed inspections	227
Dairies inspected	91
Milkshop inspections	2
Bakehouse inspections	9
Slaughter house inspections	42
Visits for infectious desease	32
Houses fumigated	15
Complaints received and investigated ...	6

Drains and Privies.

Drains opened and cleansed	2
Trapped gullies fixed	1
Insufficient privy accommodation, extra provided	4
Privies from vault to pail system	8
Privies rebuilt or repaired	6
Covered dust bins provided	2
Filthy privies cleaned and limed	3
New covers to old vaults	12
Privy vaults repaired	1
New pails to old privies	6
Urinals trapped	1
New floors to urinals	1

Dwelling-houses, etc.

House doors repaired	2
House and shed roofs repaired	24
Ovens and stoves repaired	3
Floors concreted and wood on top of same ...	2
New window to pantry	1
Damp walls cemented and made dry ...	9
House floors relaid or repaired	4
Ceiling repaired	1
Step repaired	1
House walls repaired and made safe ...	8
Windows enlarged and made to open ...	25
Shed used as sleeping apartments closed ...	2
Houses closed voluntarily	2

House closed on notice	1
Eaves and down spouting repaired or renewed	9
Dangerous chimney repaired or rebuilt ...	9
Bedroom ventilated and lighted	1
Overcrowding abated	1
Inspection of schools	1
Wells deepened and cleaned	2
Pumps repaired	2
New well sunk	1
New covers to wells	4
Soft water well provided	1
Accumulations of manure removed ...	5
Refuse tip fire extinguished	1

KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND MANURE.

Animals improperly kept removed ...	2

COWSHEDS, ETC.

Cowsheds cleaned on notice	43
New floors provided or old repaired ...	4
Floors cleaned	3
Number of cowsheds inspected	227
,, dairies ,, ...	91
,, milkshop inspections	2
,, cow-keepers on register ...	93

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number of slaughter houses condemned ...	3
Notice affix sign "registered (licensed)" slaughter house	11
Receptacles for trimmings provided ...	2
Limed on notice	3
Accumulations of manure and offal removed ...	4
Floors repaired or relaid	3
Ventilation provided	3
Light provided	1
Drain trapped	2
Sump removed to outside	2
Articles improperly stored removed ...	1
Pound floor laid	1
Slaughter house walls cemented	1
Number of slaughter houses inspected ...	42
,, ,, registered ...	15
,, ,, licensed ...	2
,, notices served	18

Infectious Disease. Particulars of this item will be given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. Each case has been investigated and on recovery fumigated by myself.

I beg to thank you for your kind consideration to me during the past 28 years and assure you of my best endeavours in the future.

I also beg to acknowledge the kind co-operation of Dr. Woodroffe, Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. PRITCHARD,

(Cert. Royal San. Inst.),

Sanitary Inspector.